

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 13-15, 19, and 20 have been amended. Claims 26-31 have been added. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 13-31 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 stands objected to because it discloses a second steering signal without first claiming a first steering signal. Claim 16 stands objected to because it claims “the first steering signal”. This limitation lacks antecedent basis. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 14, which includes “the first steering signal.” As such, the second steering signal of claim 15 is sequentially proper. Furthermore, claim 16, which depends from claim 15, now has proper antecedent basis. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the claim objections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 13-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuyoshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,949,325). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Tsuyoshi.

Tsuyoshi discloses a method of recording/reproducing information associated with an apparatus and recording medium. The medium has an alternate formation including tracks of first regions wherein at least an optical record of formatted pits at a constant time interval is recorded and second regions in which information is recorded so that optical retrieval can be achieved. A clock signal is generated based on the readout signal of the preformatted pits to

record an information signal in the second regions, and the clock signal is retarded and used to read out data pits that are the record of the information in the second regions. (Tsuyoshi at Abstract.)

Claim 13 recites:

A method for recovering a digital data signal (D_{out}) and a clock signal (Ck_{out}) comprising:
receiving a data signal (D_{in}) including a plurality of successive bits;
generating, from the data signal (D_{in}), the clock signal (Ck_{out}) with a resonator circuit;
phase locking the clock signal (Ck_{out}) to the data signal (D_{in}) by measuring a phase difference between the clock signal (Ck_{out}) and the data signal (D_{in}) and by time delaying the clock signal (Ck_{out}) in response to the phase difference, wherein measuring the phase difference includes sampling the data signal (D_{in}) with the clock signal (Ck_{out}) in three flip-flops at three different points in time;
sampling the data signal (D_{in}) at approximately the center of each bit with the delayed clock signal (Ck_{out}); and
generating, as a result of the sampling, the digital data signal (D_{out}).

Applicant submits that Tsuyoshi does not disclose or suggest phase locking a clock signal (Ck_{out}) to a data signal (D_{in}) by measuring a phase difference between the clock signal (Ck_{out}) and the data signal (D_{in}), wherein measuring the phase difference includes sampling the data signal (D_{in}) with the clock signal (Ck_{out}) in three flip-flops at three different points in time, as recited by claim 13. Applicant can find no disclosure or suggestion of such a feature anywhere in Tsuyoshi. Tsuyoshi discloses the use of a phase compare 36 in Figure 5. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion of how this phase compare 36 operates. Nor is there disclosure in Tsuyoshi of measuring a phase difference in the fashion described with respect to claim 13. Therefore, claim 13 is patentable over Tsuyoshi.

Claims 14-19 depend from claim 13 and include additional limitations. Therefore, claims 14-19 are also patentable over Tsuyoshi.

Independent claims 20 and 26 also recite, in part, phase locking a clock signal (Ck_{out}) to a data signal (D_{in}) by measuring a phase difference between the clock signal (Ck_{out}) and the data signal (D_{in}), wherein measuring the phase difference includes sampling the data signal (D_{in}) with the clock signal (Ck_{out}) in three flip-flops at three different points in time. As discussed above, Tsuyoshi does not disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, claims 20 and 26, as well as their respective dependent claims, are also patentable over Tsuyoshi.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

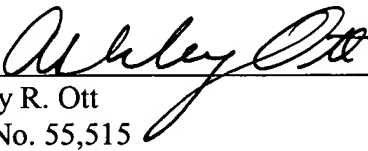
Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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